

Top Secret 219

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Monday 7 November 1977

CG NIDC 77/258C

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Monday, 7 November 1977

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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BRAZIL: Nuclear Program Criticized

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[REDACTED] //Several prominent Brazilian Government officials are questioning the viability of the nuclear accord with West Germany as criticism of the agreement intensifies. President Geisel is unlikely to permit any major modifications, but after his term ends in March 1979 implementation of the accord will probably be delayed and the power plant construction program will probably be scaled down.//

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[REDACTED] //Last week, Brazilian technicians and scientists attending an energy symposium in Rio de Janeiro publicly attacked the nuclear program on the grounds that Brazil is buying equipment and technology from West Germany that will be obsolete by the 1990s. They stated that the construction of nine reactors with a combined capacity of over 10,000 megawatts by 1990 is premature, uneconomical, and does not represent a genuine transfer of technology. One of the participants asserted that Brazil has bought "junk."//

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[REDACTED] // The national electric power company has also become dissatisfied with the nuclear program. Forecasts of electric power demand have been scaled down and many key officials believe Brazil's power needs do not justify construction of all the reactors in view of the high cost of the reactors and the nation's other financial needs.//

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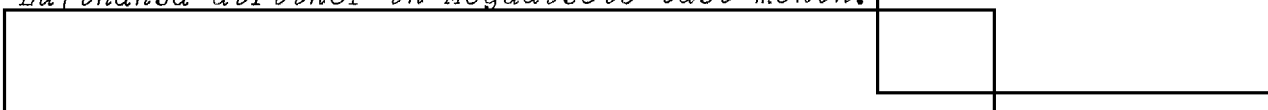
SAUDI ARABIA - GERMANY: Tank Deal

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[Redacted] Press reports from Beirut this weekend assert that West German Chancellor Schmidt has promised to consider the sale of advanced Leopard tanks to Saudi Arabia in appreciation for the Saudis' part in arranging the rescue of the hijacked Lufthansa airliner in Mogadiscio last month.

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[Redacted] One press report says that Saudi Crown Prince Fahd persuaded Somali President Siad to allow German commandos to storm the jet after the Somalis had turned down the same request from Schmidt.

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OPEC: Crude Oil Production Trends

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[redacted] Production of crude oil by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries averaged 30.9 million barrels per day during the first nine months of this year, up almost 5 percent from the comparable period of 1976. OPEC continued to account for more than one-half of total world oil output.

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[redacted] As a result of its price advantage during the first half of 1977, Saudi Arabia accounted for more than two-thirds of the increase. Most other cartel members were able to keep their oil output close to or above the levels of the comparable period of 1976. Indonesia, Libya, Nigeria, Algeria, and the United Arab Emirates--all producers of light crude--registered marked increases in production. Qatar was the only country to sustain a serious percentage decline in output.

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[redacted] OPEC production in the third quarter of 1977 fell by almost 1.1 million barrels per day from the second quarter as production began at the Alaskan North Slope field and North Sea output increased. Output was down 3 percent from the third quarter of 1976, with seven of the 13 cartel countries registering declines. [redacted]

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NIGERIA: Moving Toward Elections

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[redacted] An elected assembly began last week to review Nigeria's new draft constitution under the second stage of the military's five-part plan to return the country to civil rule

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by 1979. According to the assembly's chairman, the general debate will take three weeks. The assembly then will assign its members to committees to discuss the constitution in detail. Head of State General Obasanjo has urged the assembly to ratify the document.

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[] The chairman of the committee that drafted the constitution, Chief Williams, opened the debate with a strong defense of the document. He asserted, and the assembly reportedly agrees, that the final document adopted by the assembly would become law without enabling action by the ruling military council.

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[] Williams devoted much of his speech to an explanation of the draft constitution's proposal for a special Islamic court of appeals, which he said extremists were trying to turn into an explosive issue. The proposal has stirred ethnic sensitivities; many non-Muslim southerners view it as an unwarranted provision of special privileges to the north.

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[] Other issues addressed included the establishment of an executive presidency, the need for explicit press guarantees, and leftwing calls to declare socialist economic goals.

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[] The assembly has until October 1978 to adopt a final constitution. Under the final three stages of the plan for return to civil rule, political activity will resume next October, national political parties will be organized, and general elections will be held in October 1979. The military seems to recognize that they have not allowed enough time for parties to organize and campaign and may lift the political ban ahead of schedule if a constitution is approved quickly.

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[] //The government has just launched a national publicity campaign for the registration of voters for the 1979 elections. Actual registration will begin next month and the government has set an ambitious goal of registering between 35 million and 45 million people in seven weeks. Electoral rolls will be prepared next year.//

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25X1 [] If debate and political maneuvering during the constitutional review and later phases of the civil rule plan rekindle Nigeria's regional and ethnic tensions, the regime probably will be forced to intervene. It might stretch out its timetable or decide that Nigeria is not yet ready for civilian rule. Either event would cause friction with the civilian elite, which is eager for power. []

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BRIEF

Venezuela

25X1 [redacted]//The Venezuelan Government has decided not to participate in the 12th Conference of American Armies, which begins today in Managua, Nicaragua. [redacted]

[redacted] The Venezuelans evidently are concerned that the Nicaraguan Government will use the event to polish its international image and that the agenda will be more political than military. [redacted]

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